

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER/SPRING FACT SHEET
FINAL 2006 IN-SEASON SUMMARY**

August 2, 2006

Stock Status

Total Spring Chinook

- The total spring Chinook run is comprised of Upriver, Willamette, Lower Columbia (Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis) and Select Area spring Chinook.
- The preseason forecast was for a total of 161,400 spring Chinook at the Columbia River mouth.

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The 2006 preseason forecast was 88,400 fish. The final run size is estimated to be 132,200.
- Bonneville Dam counts between January 1 and June 15 totaled 126,158 Chinook; however the run was the latest timed in recent history (the 50% date was May 12).

Willamette Spring Chinook

- Preseason forecast for Willamette spring Chinook included 46,500 fish, with an estimated 10% of the run being wild. The final run is estimated to be 56,700.
- Willamette Falls counts between January 1 and July 23 totaled 36,700 Chinook.
- In-season harvest estimates for the mainstem Columbia River include 4,400 Willamette Chinook (kept plus release mortalities).

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast for wild winter steelhead was 16,000 fish. The preliminary final run size is estimated to be near this number.

Management Guidelines

- Spring Chinook are allocated through the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, the Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for the Willamette River, The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP), and through Washington and Oregon Commission guidance.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) limits restrict non-Indian harvest of wild upriver spring Chinook (2%) and wild winter steelhead (2%).
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook were allocated preseason at 57%/43% sport/commercial.
- As part of the annual 8,000 sturgeon commercial guideline, 1,800 sturgeon were set aside for winter/spring commercial fisheries.

Fisheries Review

Non-Treaty Sport Fisheries

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to selective salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations with a two Chinook daily bag limit.
- Regulations were adopted to extend the season below the I-5 Bridge through a target date of April 19; however, the fishery closed to Chinook retention April 14 (6 days early) until a run size update was available. The area from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam reopened for Chinook retention during May 17 through June 15.

- Except for specific fishing sanctuaries, the area from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam was open March 16-30 as scheduled and reopened May 12 through June 15.
- An estimated 87,000 angler trips below Bonneville Dam resulted in approximately 7,000 kept and 2,500 released Chinook and 2,400 kept and 350 released steelhead.
- Catch above Bonneville Dam was projected at less than 600 upriver Chinook kept.
- The Snake River near Little Goose Dam was open for hatchery Chinook retention May 17 through June 30, with an estimated 191 fish kept.

Non-Indian Commercial Sturgeon Fisheries

A total of 10 fishing periods (12-24 hour) were conducted in Zones 1-5 from January 10-February 22. Landings totaled 39 Chinook and 288 white sturgeon.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- A total of five fishing periods (12-24 hours; 8-inch minimum mesh) were conducted in Zones 1-4 (upstream to Kelley Point) between February 23 and March 15.
- The commercial fishery was put on hold in mid-March until a run size update was available
- Six additional fishing periods (10-12 hours; 8-inch minimum mesh) occurred in Zones 1-5 between May 16 and June 2.
- Landing for the season totaled 4,350 Chinook and 1,651 white sturgeon. The number of deliveries ranged between 21-91 per period. Prices for Chinook averaged about \$5.51/lb (range \$4.50-\$10.00).
- The total season catch was 4,389 Chinook and 1,939 white sturgeon.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries occurred for spring Chinook but no commercial fishing periods were conducted, due to the very late timing of the run.
- Total C&S harvest was near 8,800 Chinook.

Summary of ESA Impacts

- Impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 0.59% in sport fisheries and 0.86% in commercial fisheries, for a total of 1.45% compared to the preseason guideline of 2.0%.
- Impacts in the sport fishery were 52% of the preseason allocation and impacts in the commercial fishery were 100% of the preseason allocation. Non-Indian fisheries were only able to utilize 73% of the available impacts to upriver spring Chinook because of the record late timing of the run.
- Wild winter steelhead mortalities are estimated to be less than 20 fish or about 0.1% of the preseason run size of 16,000 fish.
- Impacts in the treaty Indian fishery are estimated to be 6.7% compared to the guideline of 8%.